

ABSTRACT

A first aspect of the invention provides an object holding tool for holding objects ~~(OB)~~, comprising a gripping unit which is operable between a contracted configuration and an expanded configuration to grip and release objects ~~(OB)~~ in transporting the same, wherein the gripping unit defines a first, outwardly-facing gripping surface ~~(91)~~ which, with the gripping unit in an expanded configuration, acts to grip an inner peripheral surface of an object ~~(OB)~~ of one kind, and a second, inwardly-facing gripping surface ~~(93)~~ which, with the gripping unit in a contracted configuration, acts to grip an outer peripheral surface of an object ~~(OB)~~ of another kind. A second aspect of the invention provides an object supporting unit for supporting an object ~~(OB)~~, comprising a lower base member ~~(105)~~, and an upper supporting body member ~~(109)~~ for supporting an object ~~(OB)~~, wherein the body member ~~(109)~~ includes first and second concentric recesses ~~(111, 113)~~, each configured to receive an object ~~(OB)~~ of one of two different kinds and having different depths such that upper ends of the two different kinds of object ~~(OB)~~ are at the same height, or at substantially the same height, when supported in the respective recesses ~~(111, 113)~~.